

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1, with the following:

According to one variant embodiment, an insulating layer of high dielectric constant separates the first electrode and the second electrode of the condenser. This insulating layer, of thickness less than 0.1 m- μ m for example, may be located on one of the two electrodes, or on both of them.

Please add the following two new paragraphs after the brief description on page 7, lines 1-3.

-figure 7 is a view of the microswitch that illustrates the electrostatic holders separated by an electric insulator.

-figure 8 is a view of the microswitch operating as a condenser comprising a conductive block and a contact, or electrodes, separated by an insulating layer.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, line 6 with the following:

Electrodes 16 and 17 firstly, and 18 and 19 secondly, which are then at their minimum distance or in contact but separated by a thin insulating layer, or electric insulator 7 as illustrated in FIG. 7, hold the deflected member electrostatically by the application of appropriate voltages when the electrical current has stopped passing through resistors 14 and 15. The electrostatic holding voltages may be applied to electrodes 16, 17 and 18, 19 when the thermal actuator has already caused the member to deflect. They may also be applied before the member deflects so as to accelerate this deflection.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1, with the following:

The time for the rise in temperature of elements 14 and 15 must be very short for application to switching of radio frequency signals, which are as a general rule less than 10 s- μ s. They must thus be made of a material which heats very rapidly. The Young module and the thermal expansion factor must thus be considered. At the same time, its geometrical characteristics must be determined.

Please add the following paragraph after the paragraph on page 11, lines 11-14.

Another feature of the present invention is the operation of the microswitch as a condenser. In this case, a first level conductor (conductive block 13) and a second level conductor (contact 4) constitute a first electrode and a second electrode of a condenser, wherein the condenser has a first capacity value before the triggering of the deformable element or member 11 (as illustrated) and a second capacity value after the triggering of the deformable element or member 11. A variant of this embodiment, as illustrated in figure 8, comprises an insulating layer 6 of high dielectric constant that separates the first and the second electrodes of the condenser. The insulating layer 6, of thickness less than 0.1 μ m, for example, may be located on one of the two electrodes (as illustrated), or on both of them.